IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE, ANDHRA PRADESH
AT HYDERABAD

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

MONDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE BILAL NAZKI

and
THE HON'BLE DR JUSTICE G.YETHIRAJULU

WRIT PETITION NO : 16171 of 2003

Between:

Ataveeprantha Girijana Sangham (APGS) Dist Committee, Khammam

Represented by its General Secretary, Kunja Dharma Rao, H.No.17-1-62, Bhagavandas Colony, Bhadrachalam, Khammam District.

..... PETITIONER

AND

1 Union of India, rep. by its Deputy Secretary Ministry of Dis-Investments, Block No.14, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
2 Ministry of Steel, rep. by its Secretary Govt of India, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi-110011
3 Govt.of A.P. by its Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce

Secretariat Buildings, Hyderabad
4 The Commissioner & Director, Tribal welfare Department, Samkshama Bhavan, Masab tank, Hyderabad
5 Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Union of India, rep.by its Secretary, Girijan

Bhavan, New Delhi
6 The Dist.Collector, Khammam District, Khammam

.....RESPONDENT(S)

(cause title of R-3 amended as per court order dated 8-8-2003 in WP No.16171 of 2003)

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the Affidavit filed herein the High Court will be pleased to issue an appropriate writ or order or direction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, particularly one in the nature of writ of Mandamus, declaring the decision of the Government of India, first respondent herein and Government of Andhra Pradesh, respondent No.3 herein to disinvest their entire voting equity shares in Sponge Iron India Limited, Paloncha, Khammam district as unconstitutional and violative of Andhra Pradesh Land Transfer regulation Act 1959 as amended by Regulation 1/70 and consequently restrain the respondents 1 and 3 from taking any action which alters the character of the company as defined under section 617 of the companies Act while setting aside the Notification issued on 11-6-2003 in Economic Times.

Counsel for the Petitioner:MR.PRATTIPATI VENKATESWARLU

Counsel for the Respondent Nos.1, 2 and 5: Mr.A.Rajasekhar Reddy, Assistant Solicitor General.

Counsel for the Respondent No.3: GP FOR INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE

Counsel for Respondents 4 and 6: None appeared.

The Court made the following :

ORAL ORDER: (per the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice)

This writ petition was filed seeking direction that the Government should not privatize Sponge Iron India Limited, Paloncha, Khammam District. In response to this, learned counsel appearing for the Union of India has placed a letter received by him from the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Disinvestment, by which he has been informed that the Government of India has decided not to pursue the process of disinvestment through strategic sale of its entire equity in the Sponge Iron India Limited.

In this view of the matter, we do not think that further directions are necessary and the writ petition is accordingly disposed of.

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BILAL NAZKI, ACJ

4TH April, 2005

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Dr.G.YETHIRAJULU, J

Tvr

..... REGISTRAR

// TRUE COPY //

SECTION OFFICER

To

1 The Deputy Secretary, Union of India Ministry of
Dis-Investments, Block No.14, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
2 The Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt
of India, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi-110011
3 The Principal Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Industries

and Commerce, Secretariat Buildings, Hyderabad
4 The Commissioner & Director, Tribal welfare Department, Samkshama
Bhavan, Masab tank, Hyderabad
5 The Secretary, Union of India, Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Girijan

Bhavan, New Delhi
6 The Dist.Collector, Khammam District, Khammam

7 2 CCs to the Govt. Pleader for Industries and Commerce, High Court

Buildings, Hyderabad (OUT).

8. 2 CCs to the Assistant Solicitor General of India, High Court Buildings, Hyderabad (OUT)

9 2 CD copies